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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/30/2003

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/05/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/676,813	Applicant(s) BIRO ET AL.	
	Examiner Edwin A. León	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed February 26, 2008 in which the Specification and Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12-14 and 16-18 have been amended, has been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The limitations containing the terms "subject to rounding" are indefinite and confusing. There seems to be no explanation in the Specification or the Drawings on how this limitation works in the present claimed invention. For examination purposes this limitations will be given little patentable weight. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Quin (U.S. Patent No. 4,500,796). With regard to Claims 1 and 10, Quin discloses (in Figs. 1-4 and 13) a power distribution system (1), comprising: a plurality of power connectors (23); and a plurality of power distribution terminals (21), each terminal is connected to a group of at least one of the connectors, the terminals or connectors being selectively *divisible* into a first set of grouping combinations and a second set of grouping combinations different from the first set, each set of grouping combinations including all the terminals or all the power connectors, each grouping combination within each set of grouping combinations corresponds to approximately the same number of power connectors, the terminals being configured to be connected to power supply circuits (inside 15) in accordance with the selected set of grouping combinations. The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above.

The limitations “for a computing system”, “for the multiple electronic components” and “configured to carry electrical power to electronics components of the computing

system” has been given little patentable weight since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex. parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quin (U.S. Patent No. 4,500,796). Quin discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the number of power connectors corresponding to each grouping combination within each set of grouping combinations differing by at most one, each group of the power connectors includes at least approximately 1/12 of the total number of power connectors, each group of the power connectors includes at most approximately 1/4 of the total number of power connectors, each group of the power connectors is selected from approximately 1/12, 1/6 and 1/4 of the total number of power connectors, each set of grouping combinations is selected from 2 grouping combinations, 3 grouping combinations and 4 grouping combinations, the first set of grouping combinations includes 2 grouping combinations, each grouping combination

includes approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total number of power connectors and the second set of grouping combinations includes 3 grouping combinations, each grouping combination includes approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total number of power connectors, the power distribution terminals include 6 terminals, each of 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the power connectors, each of another 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately $\frac{1}{6}$ of the power connectors, and each of yet another 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately $\frac{1}{12}$ of the power connectors and the power distribution terminals include 8 terminals, each of 4 of the terminals being connected to approximately $\frac{1}{6}$ of the power connectors and each of another 4 of the terminals being connected to approximately $\frac{1}{12}$ of the power connectors.

Still, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the number of power connectors corresponding to each grouping combination within each set of grouping combinations differing by at most one, each group of the power connectors includes at least approximately $\frac{1}{12}$ of the total number of power connectors, each group of the power connectors includes at most approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total number of power connectors, each group of the power connectors is selected from approximately $\frac{1}{12}$, $\frac{1}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total number of power connectors, each set of grouping combinations is selected from 2 grouping combinations, 3 grouping combinations and 4 grouping combinations, the first set of grouping combinations includes 2 grouping combinations, each grouping combination includes approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total number of power connectors and the second set of grouping combinations includes 3 grouping combinations, each grouping combination

includes approximately 1/3 of the total number of power connectors, the power distribution terminals include 6 terminals, each of 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately 1/4 of the power connectors, each of another 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately 1/6 of the power connectors, and each of yet another 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately 1/12 of the power connectors and the power distribution terminals include 8 terminals, each of 4 of the terminals being connected to approximately 1/6 of the power connectors and each of another 4 of the terminals being connected to approximately 1/12 of the power connectors in order to balance the loads (Quin, Column 3, Lines 25-29), to meet design and environmental requirements and since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617, F. 2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed February 26, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's arguments that the Quin reference doesn't show the terminals or connectors being selectively *divisible* into a first set of grouping combinations and a second set of grouping combinations different from the first set, each set of grouping combinations including all the terminals or all the power connectors, Applicant's attention is directed to Figs. 1 and 12 in which the Quin

reference discloses a plurality of power connectors (23) and a plurality of power distribution terminals (21) which can be selectively *divisible* into sets. Applicant is reminded that the term "divisible" means that it can be able to be divided which is broad enough to allow the Quin reference to meet Applicant's claims in their broadest interpretation.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** necessitated by amendment. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee S. Luebke can be reached on 571-272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Edwin A. León/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2833